

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 304042
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RFILLING:CJ
APPROVED BY AF:AMB. SCHAUFEELE
AF/E:RSPOST
S/S - PSBRIDGES
M/DG - MR. WORTZEL

----- 015888 /74

O 152001Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 304042

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDIP PFOR ET US

SUBJECT: GODLEY APPOINTMENT

1. AT HIS REQUEST, ETHIOPIAN CHARGE MEKBIB MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEELE DEC 14 TO INFORM HIM OF EPMG DECISION TO REQUEST THAT USG WITHDRAW NOMINATION OF G.M. GODLEY AS AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA. ON BASIS OF RECENT SCHAUFEELE REQUEST TO KIFLE, GOE HAD CAREFULLY RECONSIDERED ITS EARLIER DECISION TO ASK US TO WITHDRAW GODLEY NOMINATION. DESPITE HIS OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS, GOE HAD CONCLUDED THAT GODLEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN ETHIOPIA. MEKBIB NOTED THAT UNFORTUNATE ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST HAD STIMULATED OPPOSITION CRITICISM OF GODLEY WHICH HAD CONVINCED EPMG THAT GODLEY'S PRESENCE WOULD GIVE RISE TO CONSTANT CRITICISM HARMFUL TO US-EPMG RELATIONS.
 2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEELE TOLD MEKBIB THAT WE DEEPLY REGRET EPMG DECISION TO CHANGE ITS MIND ABOUT RECEIVING AS AMBASSADOR A MAN WHOM WE SINCERELY CONSIDER ONE OF OUR MOST OUTSTANDING DIPLOMATS AND WHOSE APPOINTMENT TO ETHIOPIA WE CONSIDERED AS AN INDICATION OF HOW HIGHLY WE VALUED OUR
- SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 304042

BILATERAL RELATIONS. REGARDING POSSIBLE IMPAIRMENT OF

GODLEY'S EFFECTIVENESS BECAUSE OF ADVERSE CRITICISM, SCHAUFLE POINTED OUT AGAIN THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE ORIGINATED ONLY TO DEGREE WHICH EPMG GAVE CREDENCE TO

FALSE CHARGES. SCHAUFLE NOTED THAT THE ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN WITHOUT AN AMBASSADOR FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME AND HE WONDERED IF WE SHOULD INTERPRET THIS AS CONSTITUTING A MESSAGE TO US FROM THE EPMG CONCERNING THE VALUE THEY PLACE ON THE RELATIONSHIP. SCHAUFLE TOLD MEKBIB THAT HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT THE REACTIONS IN THE SENATE WOULD BE, BUT THAT SINCE GODLEY'S NOMINATION WAS STILL FORMALLY PENDING BEFORE THAT BODY HE SUSPECTED THAT QUESTIONS WOULD BE ASKED THAT WOULD NOT BENEFIT OUR RELATIONS. HE CONCLUDED THAT SINCE WE HAD ON RECORD A NOTE FROM THE ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AGREEING TO THE APPOINTMENT, WE WOULD NOW NEED A FORMAL NOTE FROM THE EPMG WITHDRAWING THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT. MEKBIB AGREED TO SEEK IMMEDIATELY A FORMAL NOTE FROM HIS GOVERNMENT. EMBASSY ADDIS WILL PROBABLY BE RECEIVING THIS NOTE SHORTLY.

3. MEKBIB, IN LATER INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH AF/E OFFICER, VERY PRIVATELY SUGGESTED THAT SOME DIRG MEMBERS WERE INCLINED TO BELIEVE ADVERSE MATERIAL ON GODLEY CIRCULATING IN ADDIS AND PERHAPS FED TO THEM BY COMMUNIST DIPLOMATS.

4. AF/E WILL INFORM THE EMBASSY OF CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE WHEN PREPARED. IN THE MEANTIME ANY INQUIRIES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE EPMG. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE304042
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RFILLING:CJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760462-0165
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761240/aaaabicz.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GODLEY APPOINTMENT
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, ET, US, (GODLEY, G M)
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006